

# CALIFORNIA GARDEN



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# The California Garden

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SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA, APRIL, 1933

No. 10

## EUGENIA

By C. I. Jerabek

*Eugenia*, a genus closely related to the *Myrtus*. It is an evergreen shrub or tree grown mostly for its ornamental foliage, although some produce beautiful flowers and edible fruit.

If I were asked, which species was the most attractive, it would mean a lot of thought, and then I probably would have to say, they all have some outstanding feature that gives them a beauty not surpassed by the other varieties.

Where a rapid growing tree or shrub is desired, *Eugenia paniculata* (formerly called *E. Hookeri* and *E. Hookeriana*) will no doubt answer the purposes. This variety with its delightful reddish-green foliage will develop into a spreading tree unless trimmed occasionally, then it will become a compact and beautiful specimen, which in time will bear numerous clusters of purple berries, these generally hang heavily on the branches, giving them a drooping appearance. Pruning now and then will not only thicken the foliage but will produce that pleasing bronze color formed by the new growth.

Two shrubs of this variety growing naturally are located at 3055 First Street and the southwest corner of Trias and Fort Stockton Drive, while at 4155 Palmetto Way and 4027 Brant Street they are used for formal designs. A beautiful hedge may be found east of the residence at 2384 Fort Stockton Drive.

Sometimes a bushy shrub attaining huge proportions is wanted, *Eugenia paniculata* var. *australis* (*E. myrtifolia*) will give the desired results, being a very fast grower with wonderful glossy green foliage tipped with a reddish hue, older leaves sometimes having a yellowish cast. Although this variety will grow to enormous size it is considered the best variety for formal designs on hedges.

A magnificent specimen growing naturally is towering above a two-story residence at 3407 Albatross Street, two other extra large ones in front of a home at 1864 Sunset Boulevard; an excellent specimen grown as a tree with a single trunk at 927 Twenty-sixth Street, several formal shrubs are in front of homes at 2312 and 2320 Thirty-first Street. used as a hedge at 4408 Arista Drive and 3371 Thirtieth.

You probably have heard some people say "Where can we find a *Eugenia uniflora* (Pitanga or Surinam-cherry)?" Well, the usual place is in some one's back yard planted among other fruit bearing trees, though now and then they are used for ornamental purposes. In Balboa Park north of the bowling greens near a large coral tree are a group and a handsome one can be found at the northwest corner of Fourth and Olive Streets.

The leaves of this variety are nearly sessile, deep green and shiny above, dull green beneath of an ovatelanceolate shape. The flowers are inconspicuous, being small, solitary on the ends of the delicate stems, these are single or two or three together in the axil of the leaves. The fruit, which is very showy, is about an inch in diameter, having eight distinct ribs. When ripe it is bright crimson, generally having only one seed though occasionally there will be two. This fruit has a spicy and acid flavor, which can be eaten raw or preferably made into jelly.

I doubt if there is anyone in the east or other colder climes that could not tell what a rose or an apple looked like but combine the two and this would be a different story. Here in San Diego we have this kind of fruit looking like a crabapple, and giving forth a strong fragrance of roses but instead of making jellies they are used for flavoring, giving them a most delicious taste.

These apples come from another variety of *Eugenia* called jamboos. This is an attractive evergreen tree, sometimes growing 30 feet tall. In shape its leaves resemble that of the oleander, being oblong-lanceolate, and are thick and shiny. When the trees are in flower the blossoms almost seem to cover the trees with their silky, greenish pompons, two or three inches across, composed of numerous stamens. This variety generally comes in bloom in May.

Two very beautiful trees can be seen at 518 East Laurel and 3303 Twenty-eighth Street. Four smaller ones are growing in Washington Park (Old Town Plaza). Some day we may sit in this park and eat rose-apples.

Not so common in our city is *E. smithi*, an upright shrub resembling *E. Australis*, but the fruit far surpasses it for ornamental purposes, being slightly smaller and white or lavender in color. Two excellent shrubs are growing in the gardens of Miss Berg and Miss K. O. Sessions, Soledad Terrace. Also in Miss Sessions' garden are two shrubs of another interesting variety called *E. nabalitia*, which is blue fruited.

In Golden Gate Park and seemingly very common there is another interesting *Eugenia* whose specific name is *apiculata*. This variety is especially very pleasing when in flower. The small, oval leaves are an inch or less in length with pointed tips resembling *Myrtus communis*. The flowers come three together and cover the bush like a blanket of snow. After the bloom come the berries which are black.

Probably few housewives are aware of the fact but without a doubt the dried flowers of one kind of *Eugenia* may be found in many of their cupboards. These are used in preserving of pickles, hams, crabapples, etc. The tree that produces these flowers is *E. aromatica* (the clove tree).

## A REVIEW OF ROSES

By Peter D. Barnhart

There are so many varieties of the Queen of Flowers on the market today that it is bewildering to the amateur who wants to make a selection for his or her garden.

Another thing about roses—many varieties listed in catalogs are not adapted to growing in the open ground.

Fine for growing under glass, the descriptions given them may be true in every particular, but wholly misleading to the inexperienced. Even those of us who have been experimenting for many years, in climates that vary as much as the varieties themselves, are led into

all sorts of mistakes, and experiments which are expensive and disappointing.

Last year this writer read of a new one from Australia, named *Scorcher*. The description was so enticing that a half-dozen plants were ordered. They grew vigorously, and bloomed fairly well, but the flowers were inferior in every way to Paul's Scarlet, of which we had an abundance.

Years ago we read of the Damask rose, one of the varieties from which Attar of Roses is made. Of course we had to have it, and the search was begun. Finally three plants were located in a little nursery in San Diego county. Because they were rare, and our enthusiasm was great, the fellow was shrewd enough to put a high price on those plants. They were planted carefully, cared for as a mother cares for her babe. Poor little plants!—two of them existed for two years, and left for parts unknown. The other, now six years old, is two feet high, looks healthy and seems disposed to flower this year. Mention is made of this species, at this time, for the reason that it is discussed in a widely circulated magazine of this coast, and unsophisticated readers, as this writer was, may be led into the same error experimenting with it.

In very truth, seven varieties of bush roses are all we would plant—and here they are, in merit, in the order named:

Los Angeles, William F. Dreer, the two Irishmen: Fireflame and Elegance; Vesuvius. Frau Karl Druschki, and Paul Scarlet. To be sure we shall continue to try out the new ones, which is the only way to learn of their merits as dependable garden varieties. Of all the seven, Los Angeles is the most desirable.

The Polyanthese varieties are profuse bloomers and make a good show, but as cut flowers they are inferior to the others.

And now about the Climbers. For spectacular effect Belle of Portugal is head and shoulders above every other variety we have tried. Marvelous as the statement may seem, Armstrong of Ontario is the only nursery listing it. For a pure white climber we have yet to see one that is equal to the old Lamarque.

Of the yellow climbers none is equal to the Marchael Niel. It is a temperamental variety. It demands an abundant amount of water and plenty of food. The best specimen we have ever seen was at Bakersfield growing beside a water trough that leaked. It is one of our "first loves" which never can be forgotten, because of the beautiful color, and delightful fragrance. This year an experiment is to be



made working it on Belle of Portugal. Maybe the girl will infuse some of her vigor into its veins, and claim him for a congenial companion. Who knows? We are going to find out. The spirit of adventure still flows in our veins.

## BULB FIELDS OF SAN DIEGO

By K. O. Sessions

The excellent discourse at the March meeting on Bulbs was both interesting and instructive. Samples of fine *Ranunculus* and a limited display of other varieties were shown.

The large acreage devoted to bulb culture in our neighboring towns of Carlsbad, Encinitas and Vista was forcefully brought to our attention and the beauty of the fields at this time of the year we were urged to visit. This I did this past week and particularly the fields belonging to Mr. Luther Gage just beyond Carlsbad. I was amazed at the quality, the wonderful colorings in so great a variety, the vigor of the plants and the quantities being grown.

The freesias in their great variety of colors was beyond my knowledge of colored freesias. Dark blues and white and lighter blue shades, lavender and white, pink and white, orange with red and copper shadings, deep yellows, purest white and pale tintings. These freesias when grown in our gardens, in partial shade will be a revelation of beauty and all so very fragrant.

The *ranunculus* were marvels in size and colorings. I could not imagine how they could be grown so fine, so asked questions. On well watered, cultivated soil the seed was sown in September and over the seed a light mulching of very old fertilizer was spread. Then daily waterings followed. Some seed required 30 days to sprout. Then gradually less waterings—as the plants grew, cultivating was carried on. The watering was done by a spraying system from pipes on the ground.

Anemones were grown in the same way, color, size and quality perfection. Many varieties were the result of scientific care and selection of seed and hybridization. The crop consists of bulbs and seed. The bulbs are all sold to one firm, Armcoast & Royston, of Los Angeles, and that firm has been sending out attractive circulars to all their customers to visit those flower fields and personally observe the beauty and quality of the bulbs that they will be selling next fall. Any one without transportation will be taken down. They want their salesmen to personally know what they are selling and those of us who can visit these

fields should for the same reason know what they are buying.

Mr. Gage has growing a few hundred bulbs of the famous new blue flower known as the "Glory of the Sun," from the mountains of Chili, which were collected by Mr. Clarence Elliott of England, in 1928 and 1929. These the rabbits have eaten down several times until protected by a wire fence. All the other flowers were not molested. Strange how the California rabbits knew these new plants were good eating.

In a few years we shall be growing this charming blue relative of our common *Brodea capitata* (the wild hyacinth) as we grow freesias.

Mr. Gage has several other fine and unusual bulbous plants from South African fields that will also add beauty and fragrance to our Southern California gardens, varieties that in colder climates must be grown under glass.

Our mild climate is not suitable for the narcissus, tulips and hyacinths, so long cultivated and enjoyed by all colder climates, but these South African bulbs in their great wealth of beauty and variety and fragrance will give us flowers in some variety — a continual joy throughout the year and please our visitors from all the colder climates.

There will be a display of many of these new varieties at our Spring Flower Show April 22nd and 23rd.

## COOL BULB TREATMENT HASTENS IRIS BLOOMS

Bulbous iris can be brought to bloom for market a month earlier than usual by keeping the bulbs in cold storage (50 deg. Fah.) for about 30 days just before planting, the United States Department of Agriculture has found.

This information has already been put to practical use by southern growers, who are now able to begin selling iris about Thanksgiving time, instead of waiting until January, as they had to formerly.

Another experiment of the department has opened up the possibility of a huge home market for daffodils. The department found that daffodil bulbs can be held dormant until late in the season and then grown in vases of water. Formerly it was thought they had to be potted in September, but if held in dry storage at 40 to 55 deg. Fahr. up to January they can be brought into bloom in four to six weeks, beginning about the first of the year, just as the season for home growing of narcissus paperwhites ends.

### WISTARIA WEEK AT ROSECROFT

When Mr. and Mrs. Alfred Robinson, charming owners of the famous Rosecroft Gardens on Point Loma, had the inspiration last year to offer the Floral Association the use of their lath gardens which at this time are completely covered with the blossoms of the huge Wisteria vine, it was a gift to the city of San Diego's cultural life. In spite of the cold weather the week has been enjoyed by large crowds who have journeyed over to the end of Point Loma, where the Robinsons have established a most unique garden under lath. As the visitors entered the rustic gateway their exclamations of pleasure at the vista presented of winding walks edged with masses of brilliant cinerarias, feathery lavender primulas and baskets and large clumps of blooming colorful begonias, draped overhead by graceful festoons of lilac colored wisteria, echoed through the gardens. After listening to the fine lectures by noted horticulturists in a little outdoor theatre created by the clever arranging of palms and begonias, guests each day of the week were served with tea by groups of prominent social leaders. Each of these groups took special pains and pleasure in the appointments of the tea table and it is safe to say that many of the guests took away ideas for flower arrangements for their own tables. Beginning Saturday, April 1, the house committee of the Floral Association were hostesses for the afternoon and the speaker was Alfred Robinson, who always has important messages for garden minded people. The tea table was very beautiful with an Italian cutwork cloth and a copper bowl of climbing aloe flowers.

Those assisting Mrs. Mary Green, president of the Association, were Mesdames Alfred Robinson, Robert Morrisson, Rawson Pickard, John Nuttall and the Misses Alice Halliday, Laura Brewster and Etta Schwieder.

Sunday was under the supervision of the Chula Vista Garden Club, whose president, Mrs. C. W. Darling, was hostess and who introduced Dr. Frank Lane, who gave a most impressive reading of Shelly's beautiful poem, "Sensitive Plant." Mrs. Darling was assisted in the tea table by Mesdames Harold Pope, Burt Dockstader, John Monroe, William Frevert, Belle Cook and the Misses Alice Rolph, Louise Yawger and Alta Yawger. A bowl of spring flowers centered the table.

Monday was Junior League day, whose garden chairman, Miss June Annable, took charge and introduced the speaker, Miss Kate O. Ses-

sions, who spoke on "Making Gardens." The tea table was charming with a silver green basket full of russet ranunculus and gerberas.

Tuesday, Mrs. John C. Clark and a group of her friends were hostesses, who had the pleasure of hearing Lewis B. Walmsley speak on succulents and cacti. Mesdames Ruth Robinson Bailey, Harold Johnson, W. C. Bryant, Waldo Walmsberg and Miss Margaret Lord presided at the tea table, which was beautifully appointed and decorated with a silver bowl of lavender schiranthus and blue forget-me-nots and silver candlesticks with lavender tapers.

Wednesday was Coronado Garden club day with Mrs. Dwight Peterson as chairman. An unusual talk on Shakespearian gardens and a demonstration of flower arrangement for dinner tables was given by Miss Alice Rainford. Tea was served at the long table centered by a basket of blue delphiniums, yellow iris and native blue ceanothus blooms. Hostesses were Mesdames Marshall O. Terry, E. C. Van Sickle, J. P. Wilbur, Walter Keck, P. A. Aldrich. Armand Jessop, W. W. Crosby, Charles Swan and W. A. Frenaye.

Thursday was in charge of Mrs. John Burnham, who had assisting her Mesdames Maurice Braun, J. E. Jennison, William Kettner. S. E. Payson, J. E. Connell, D. S. Harness. Edith Naylor, W. B. Kenderdine, DeForest Ward and H. C. Dunning. Mrs. Harness arranged a most artistic black and white bowl with pink larkspur, sweet peas, schizanthus, lavender single stocks, linarias and a few white daisies. Alfred Robinson was the speaker for the day and his reminiscences were enjoyed by all. Friday members of the Girl Scout council presided with Mrs. George Abel as chairman. Mrs. Abel introduced Mrs. Neff Bakkers, who had many tables of fruit, vegetables and flowers common to our gardens, but which she traced back as importations from our neighbors to the south. Her talk was called "South American Guests in Our Gardens." The tea table was decorated with blue and yellow iris, yellow ranunculus and wild blue heliotropes. Those assisting were Mesdames William Paxton Cary, J. H. Rainwater, A. H. Johnson and Paul V. Tuttle. Miss Helen Burnham, scout director, and six Scouts from Point Loma also assisted.

So ended a week of satisfying entertainment marking another epoch in the history of the San Diego Floral Association. Those who wanted to feast their eyes on the beauty of the gardens, those who enjoyed the instructive lectures and those who joined their friends in a



happy social gathering were amply rewarded for their visit. It must be noted that the remarkable direction of the club president, Mrs. Mary A. Greer, has been responsible for the success of this annual event. She has been at the gardens every day and gracefully introduced each chairman and assisted the hostesses with their duties. The Floral Association thanks Mr. and Mrs. Robinson for their gracious gift of the use of the gardens and their charming hospitality to the guests. May the Wisteria Week Teas be as regular an event as the annual flower shows. C. B. T.

### STRAY THOUGHTS

In March issue of this Journal Miss Sessions referred to a yellow flowering Morning Glory she saw growing wild in Mexico. I wonder if this is the same plant I met with in Honolulu which is known there as the Wooden Rose Vine. Also as Ceylon Morning Glory. Frear in her work on the Island plants, names it *Convolvulus tuberosa*. Anyway, I brought home some seeds, and now have a plant two years old. A vigorous grower with digitate foliage, the color of the vine dark brown. Up to date it has not flowered, and I am beginning to think that it must have more heat and moisture than our climate affords. The idea of "Wooden Rose" comes from the fact that the five parted calyx persists to the seed vessel, which does not dehis, but remains whole; the coffee-colored satin-like tomentum of the *rose* give it a pretty appearance. Bailey has a perfect illustration of the plant I have in mind, which he names *I. digitata*, though he says it has pink flowers. To ferret out all these names, and reconcile all the descriptions with the plants in our gardens is interesting work; stimulating to thought, and helps one retain the Spirit of Youth.

Recently I visited the garden of Mrs. John D. Fredericks in Belle-Air. Botanic Gardens would be an apt name for the place. *Primulus* in about twenty species, and an endless number of varieties covered the landscape; and what a scene of beauty, of excellence in design. Cement walls and walks are not found in that garden. Neither are there straight lines. A lot of professional landscape architects on this coast could study the work of that woman with profit to themselves, and for the salvation of our NATURAL landscape beauty.

Readers of these lines who live within reach by auto of the Coolidge Gardens, in Pasadena, Foothill boulevard, should visit the place while Azaleas are in bloom. Gorgeously beautiful

and artistically arranged. They have learned how to grow them in this country where there is more or less alkali in the water. That is one chemical which is sure death to that class of plants.

I spent over a hundred dollars of another fellow's money experimenting with *Rhododendrons*, and *Azaleas*. They lived one year and made a wonderful show while they lived. Since then I have not been very keen on further experiments with them. P. D. B.

### REPORT OF THE MARCH MEETING

March is the time for bulb flowers to bloom in San Diego and at the meeting of the San Diego Floral Association for that month, a most interesting talk was given by the editor of California Garden, Silas Osborn, who is an authority on the importing, planting and care of bulbs. Mr. Osborn is engaged in plant disease and insect pest control work in the capacity of County Agricultural Inspector. He gave valuable information about the care and planting of bulbs, an outstanding statement being that it is not the feeding and care after planting that counts as much as the care after blooming when the plant is storing up food in the new bulbs forming. The expected speaker with Mr. Osborn, Pieter Smoor, was not able to be present because of illness, and Chester Strom, the flower arrangement artist of Daniels Flower Shop, consented to give a demonstration of arranging flowers in different shaped bowls and for effects against walls or in the center of tables. Watching Mr. Strom's deft fingers create beautiful florist bouquets from the odd flowers brought in by members of the Association was an inspiration. The meeting ended as usual with a delightful talk on specimen plants by our beloved Miss Kate O. Sessions. C. B. T.

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# The California Garden

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Silas B. Osborn

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
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## TO ROSE EXHIBITORS

If you have only one beautiful rose, bring it to the show, do not join the ranks of those who say, "Why, I had better roses than those in my garden at home."

Bring them and allow all of us to enjoy them with you.

A little hint to amateurs may prove helpful. Water your rose bushes deeply the day before cutting and then cut the roses before the sun reaches them, placing them in deep water. If possible, bring your blossoms in water, but if not practical, pack them carefully in damp paper.

All vases are furnished free of charge, and of course, no charge is made for entries.

Consult your premium list carefully so as to make no mistakes in your entering.

The chairman will gladly assist you in every way.

MRS. GEO. W. GARDNER,  
Chairman, Rose Section.

## GARDENS AND GARDENING

Edited by F. A. Mercer, the Studio Garden Annual of 1933 is offered by the Studio Publications, Inc., of New York under the above title. International in aspect, it nevertheless betrays a strong English influence throughout. Through the sheer beauty of its countless photographic illustrations it deserves a place in the garden library of the horticulturalist everywhere who seriously considers garden design and effects. Professional landscapers will find inspiration in this kaleidoscopic review of the world's finest gardens both in ensemble and detail. Nor is its appeal confined to the lover of the well designed and executed garden. Under the subtitles of "Gardens from all Countries," "Flowering Shrubs," "Small Gardens for Pleasure and Profit," "Perennials in the Modern Garden," and "Some New and Lesser-Known Flowers" gardening progress throughout the world up to date is discussed and illustrated in the thorough manner that the English garden writer achieves. The sump of authenticity is evident throughout. Garden subjects familiar to those well informed on ornamental horticulture in California are photographically illustrated so beautifully as to demonstrate the ultimate in their possibilities in California gardens. While some of the subjects touched upon are unadapted to California conditions so general in tone is "Gardens and Gardening" that this is the exception rather than the rule. The title of this masterpiece is both concise and appropriate, yet it might well be named "Gardens and Gardening Illustrated."

## NOTICE OF ROCK GARDEN VISITS

Though the co-operation of Fred H. Wylie, the following rock gardens will be open for inspection Sunday, May 7th.

Church of the New Jerusalem (Swedenborg), corner of Campus and Tyler. This is opposite the Horace Mann junior high school, one block west of Normal. This is probably the largest Church Rock Garden in America and the latest addition is the South African Rock Garden, containing only plants from that country. This represents the South African desert and this one part alone contains over twenty tons of rock. Mr. V. A. Sale, who fathered the idea of a church rock garden, and Mr. Wylie, who designed it, will be on hand to describe the various features. Visiting hours are from 1 to 5 p. m.

At Mr. Wylie's home, 4539 Park boulevard,

Patronize the Garden Advertisers



Mrs. Wylie will show the various gardens and pools.

Miss Sibyl Anderson, 4476 Hortensia street, Mission Hills, has lifted almost bodily Wylie's exhibit at the last spring flower show. Visitors will see how a show exhibit looks when expanded in the garden. Miss Anderson will be the hostess and will explain it.

At Ridgeways' apartment house, 3039 First street, visitors will be able to see how a long narrow space at the back of the apartment house has been handled.

Last but not least is the lath house rock garden of the Clarendon T. Smiths, 4562 Kensington Drive. Visitors here will see one of the lath houses in the city that won a medal in the garden contests last year. Mr. and Mrs. Smith will be the hosts here.

Please note that the hours are 10 a. m. to 5 p. m. at all the gardens except the church, which is 1 to 5 p. m.

#### APRIL WEATHER IN SAN DIEGO COUNTY

By Dean Blake, Weather Bureau

As elsewhere in temperate climates, April is a month of showers in San Diego and vicinity. Long protracted spells of disagreeable, blustery days are practically unknown, but some rain is sure to fall, a record of 83 years showing only one April unproductive of measurable precipitation. Monthly amounts, as may be expected, are not large, the average for the city being somewhat over half an inch, and the number of days on which rain may be expected totaling four. Only one year in four has a rainfall greater than an inch.

The so-called "high fog," so characteristic of summer weather along the coast of California, begins in April, but nevertheless there is no marked decrease in sunshine from the winter months, the percentage remaining about 68, and no important changes in the number of clear, partly cloudy and cloudy days, which average 14, 9 and 7, respectively.

Dynamically heated winds, known locally as "Santa Anas" and "Desert Winds" sometimes visit the county along with the rest of Southern California. Then, temperatures are high, and the relative humidity low, but these visitations prevail for a day or two only.

The mean temperature is 60 degrees; an extremely favorable condition for mental and physical activity. Freezing weather and even heavy snows are frequently reported from the higher elevations, but in the citrus districts and

near the coast temperatures below 32 degrees are rare, and the planting and sowing of summer crops may be carried on with safety.

#### NOTICE OF THE APRIL MEETING

The San Diego Floral Association will hold their next meeting April 18 in the club rooms in Balboa Park at 7:30 in the evening. The talk on Holland Pottery and Glass for Arrangement for Flowers scheduled for last month by Pieter Smoor, well known collector of art, will be the feature at this meeting. Final plans for the big spring flower show will be told by Mrs. Greer, president. C. B. T.

#### A VISIT TO MISS SESSIONS' MT. SOLEDAD GARDEN

By Florence P. Brant

Members of the Floral Association and their friends who responded to Miss Sessions' invitation to visit her home garden at Mt. Soledad, availed themselves of a rare treat. The date was set for the week-end of March 11th so that the visitors might view the acacias while at the height of their beauty.

Fresh and lovely they were, whether the familiar types or the interesting newcomers. Among the finest of the new varieties was the A. Leptoclada which Miss Sessions considers one of her choicest. Among others was the A. Lineata, which spreads as a shrub, the Obtusata, which spreads in lacy fashion, the tiny balls of yellow bloom just a trifle smaller than the leaves, the Prominens, the tallest grower, Cultriformis, a low grower, and one which has been in cultivation here for many years, and then the Pubescens, a tree grown under glass, especially for cut flowers.

Turning away from the acacias, which always remind one of trees piled softly with yellow pine, we directed our steps along the various enticing paths of the garden. Many flashes of spring color caught the eye. There were the loveliest mesembryanthemums in pastel shades, soft yellows and delicate pinks, and in the background a patch of vivid cerise, easily the most striking note in the garden. At the end of one path stood a wild-lilac tree and a real tree it was, for the main stem of the shrub had been trimmed and pruned free of all low branches, until a central trunk had been attained, a unique achievement. It lifted its grey-blue flowering branches aloft in pardonable pride.

All the paths were lined with the most colorful rocks and stones. Miss Sessions has an un-

canny faculty for collecting rocks. They blend so beautifully with the plants and shrubs within the individual plots. Her cacti enclosure was a gem of rare species, the old man cactus with his flowing wave of white hair, evoking especial interest.

Miss Sessions pointed to a new plot in the process of being assembled. She called it her little white garden, for within it she is planting low shrubs and plants, which will be frosty hued or entirely white. A white geranium was already blooming, fairly bursting with importance because one of its lowly family had at last come into its own. The stones bordering this plot were white or of a silvery cast, harmonizing the whole effect.

We were told we must not miss the heather and famous silver tree, growing on the other side of the house. We retraced our steps through the lath house, and the arbor of wisteria which already gave promise in the newly budding white and lavender blossoms, of great beauty to come.

Miss Sessions' collection of heather is undeniably fine. The softness of the tiny blossoms range from shell pink and lavender to a deep rose. There is one she calls the new Easter variety, the white bell-like flowers growing closely on spiky sprays. This is a rare type which grows prolifically in certain places in Europe. It is little wonder that Miss Sessions continually urges that more heather should be grown here, it is so satisfactory as a garden bloomer, and as a cut flower lasts indefinitely. Besides, it takes so little care, no water at all in the summer time.

Further along we came upon the Silver Tree (*Leucadendron argentea*). It has to be seen to be appreciated and when one does see it for the first time it is difficult to restrain a little gasp of wonder and pleasure. The long, slender branches sway gently, rustling the narrow leaves, green on one side, a glinting silver on the other. These arm-like branches terminate in a sort of chalice, the blossoms nestling in the center of each silver cup. We were told that this lovely, decorative tree was a native of Table Mountain at the Cape of Good Hope, South Africa.

As the visitors left the smiling hillside garden and their genial hostess, each was presented with feathery sprays of the acacia, a sunny memento of a delightful visit.

## FUCHSIAS

When, over a hundred years ago, an English sailor, returning from a voyage to the west coast of South America, brought back to his flower-loving mother in London a fuchsia plant, he started something. For the old lady proudly grew it to flowering in the window of her cottage, and a nurseryman catching sight of this new plant bought it, soon after which English gardeners were able to get fuchsias. This, of course, was a wild plant, a species, and, though still grown, it has been far surpassed by the hybrids developed from it and other species. The fuchsia eventually became a very popular window and greenhouse plant in England, where only a few varieties are hardy, and at its height literally hundreds of varieties were grown. These were mainly hybrids, single, double, white, red, purple, salmon, varying from slender, minute flowers less than half an inch long to huge double ones three inches in length and proportionately broad.

Many of these were brought to California, where they were very popular forty or fifty years ago particularly in and around San Francisco, where climatic conditions were so favorable to their being grown outdoors. When the fashion for fuchsias failed, they were forgotten, but now they are being rescued from old gardens and seem due for a period of popularity. . . .

Granted that nearly all fuchsias have drooping flowers of somewhat similar style, that they are of pretty solid substance, perhaps a bit cold and never sweet-scented, it must be acknowledged that there is very considerable variety of shape, from rather short durable flowers with white corollas so ruffled that they suggest ballet-dancers' skirts, through large and singles of intermediate shape to the long, narrow, clustered flowers of the single triphylla type. The color combinations are varied and unusual, often striking in their daring contrasts of purple corollas with red sepals, and extending through plum and mauve, clear and soft pinks, salmon, vermillion and all sorts of lovely reds, often in combination with white. In size they vary from big, blowsy doubles an inch across and twice as long to dainty little singles hardly half an inch in any direction. . . .

Personally I have enjoyed fuchsias as cut flowers most when the individual blossoms were put in a broad, shallow black glass bowl and floated on the surface like water-lilies. Though not evergreens, most varieties losing



their foliage about Christmas and getting a new supply in early March, their leaves are clean and of interesting shape and texture, and always an excellent background for the flowers.—Sydney B. Mitchell, in "From a Sunset Garden." (New York: Doubleday Doran.)

## GARDENERS GIVEN USEFUL HINTS IN GAST'S NEW BOOK

By Ada Perry

"The way I see it, the small farm home is not just a piece of property but a mode of living, one that is being adopted generally in Southern California from millionaire to part-time wage earner."

The speaker was Ross H. Gast, author of a new, up-to-date book on gardening in this state. The book was off the press April 6 and bears the title of "Vegetables in the California Garden; With Notes on Planning and Planting a Small Farm Home of Berries and Fruits."

That the book is present day is self evident. The small farm home is a modern institution, especially here in Southern California. Mr. Gast himself is ample proof that his work will be authentic. He was in San Diego on business a few days ago and an interview disclosed some valuable sidelights on this writer of a timely guide on California gardening.

Mr. Gast was born and reared on a Los Angeles truck garden. After that he wrote about gardening in Southern California for 15 years. He continues to write about gardening in the Times Farm and Garden Magazine and the Western Grower and Shipper, of which latter publication he is editor. Stanford University Press is slated for four more books along the same line.

In other words he knows what he is writing about and how to write it.

The small farm home is his favorite development of the gardening theme.

"People want to get outdoors," he says, "and the small farm home gives them that opportunity. It is a good home in good and bad times and a place to save earnings with its incidental production of food supply."

In his book, as proofs show, he enlarges on this theme by offering plans for labor saving modern houses that will allow the housekeeper as much time outdoors as possible; and suggestions for laying out the grounds in the way that will produce the most varied food supply and yet be beautiful and livable.

Varieties of berries and fruits that will bear

over the longest season are given and also the kinds one should plant to get the most returns.

Ornamentals are not neglected because, although the book is vegetable in title, Mr. Gast believes people are happier with ornamental plants growing on their small-farm home than not.

In connection with the vegetable part of his book it is important again to recall Mr. Gast's early years on the truck garden. His father gave him a one-eyed Japanese gardener of ancient years for a helper and turned over to him the task of sowing the vegetable rows month after month, a considerable job on any truck acreage. Oriental lore and youth joined hands and no vegetable grown in California is a mystery to Ross H. Gast.

When writing about them he adopts an informal viewpoint in which humor is not forgotten. He also tells how to grow them and forgets about theory. Line cuts are sprinkled through his book picturing the "hows." There are also planting charts for all sections of California, including Imperial Valley.—San Diego Union.

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### WORTH WHILE FACTS ABOUT WISTERIA

Wisteria is probably, next to the Climbing Rose, the most popular climbing plant in the East, largely because of its hardiness, but also, likely enough, on account of its inherent merit as a flowering vine.

The Chinese Wisterias (*W. sinensis*) are so well known that it is hardly necessary to comment other than to say that it is unwise to grow any but those that have been grafted, preferably from flowering wood, and certainly from well established grafted flowering plants. For seedlings may not bloom during the first ten years, whereas plants grafted from flowering wood generally bloom the second year after, and those grafted from vigorous wood taken from flowering plants the fourth year, with reasonable certainty.

So far as I know, the Chinese Wisteria is found in two colors only—purple or lavender and white. Both are fragrant, particularly the white which is not exactly white but shows shading, however slight, of bluish or lavender with a trace of yellow.

*W. floribunda* (or *multijuga*), Japanese Wisteria,\* is less well known, probably because originally our supply of Chinese Wisteria came from England and Holland, and the Dutch producers grew practically nothing else. The Japanese species is quite similar to the Chinese, although the foliage is somewhat more elongated and the flower racemes particularly so. The flowers are of the same size, but spaced a greater distance apart, with the net result that while the Chinese racemes range from 6 in. to 8 in. long and in rare cases as much as 10 in. the Japanese are rarely shorter than 12 in. and are occasionally as long as 60 in. Grown as a pergola vine, or for draping a small porch or trellis, the Japanese Wisteria is at its best because the length of bloom is shown up to the best advantage.

Japanese Wisteria comes fairly true from seed, generally blooming within eight or ten years after planting. Yet that is a long time to wait when the plantsman cannot with certainty determine the results in advance. By buying plants grafted to well known, established varieties, it is possible to obtain positive results and, generally, a liberal supply of bloom on four year vines, or, frequently, earlier. Of course, one has to wait until the vines are well established for the extremely long flower clusters—3 ft. and over.

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Among the better known varieties of *W. floribunda* are:

**KAMA NODA**—splendid, vigorous, with deep purple blossoms 12 in. to 15 in. or more long. One of the best colored sorts.

**MURAKAI NODA**—deeper in color under favorable conditions; racemes readily attain a length of 24 in. or more; a strong grower and very free flowering.

**NAGA NODA**—one of the few that produce extremely long racemes. Even on young vines, they are 3 ft. long and they have been known to reach 5 ft. The accompanying illustration pictures this variety.

**SHIRO NODA**—considered the white form of *Murasaki Noda*.

There are several pink or rose colored forms, such as:

**FLORIBUNDA ROSEA**—with clear, light pink flowers in long clusters, 18 to 24 in.

**FLORIBUNDA RUBRUM**—deeper pink but said to produce equally long flowers.

**FLORIBUNDA FLORE PLENA**—unusual and desirable, producing double, deep blue flowers.

The demand for these varieties no doubt will be active as soon as they become better known; it is quite likely that the Chinese vari-



eties, be they ever so good, will be pushed into the background with the early models of motor cars.

\*"Standardized Plant Names" lists Japanese Wisteria as *W. floribunda* and *W. multijuda* as a separate species under the name, Longcluster Wisteria—Editor.

A. E. WOHLERT, Narberth, Pa.  
(Florists Exchange)

## STREET TREES IN RESIDENCE DISTRICTS

By Helen W. King

There is a suggestion I'd like to make to those of you who love trees—and I believe that would include all who take the time to read this page. It is this: While you drive about this Southland of ours, make it a point to observe the tree plantings, or the absence of them, in the newer residential developments. Note which kinds make the most pleasing effect on close observation and then glance back at them from a place farther away, where they become a part of the general landscape. There are some very definite lessons to be learned in this way.

There is reason for us to rejoice in the mere fact that a majority of these newer sections are being planted to trees. We can all recall a time when the subdividers believed they had done all that could be expected of them when they laid out streets, put in some curbs, laid the water and gas mains and provided for sewage disposal. The planting of trees along the streets never occurred to them.

There has either been a new crop of subdividers or else they have, as a group, seen a great light, for it is hard, now, to find a recent development in residential property where trees are not as much a part of the whole as are the curbs, even if they are nothing more than saplings the size of whips. The real estate developers are not always wise in their selection of varieties, it is true, but they are certainly planting something and that is a step forward.

There is a wide latitude of choice in desirable trees and there is such ample evidence of the value of some over others that it is rather puzzling to understand why some streets are still being lined with those subjects that lack the proper qualifications.

In a new development, one of the things which ought to be considered is the speed with which the trees attain sufficient growth to make a reasonable showing. We have several

which grow rapidly, keep a good form and do not develop undesirable characteristics as they mature. There is no need for monotony even when the plantings are restricted to these.

Consider, for instance, the Lombardy poplars: It is hard to find a spot where these fine trees will not grow well. The same is true of the graceful Chinese elms. Among the acacias there are varieties adaptable to coastal plantings, to hot interiors and to those spots which experience frosts, winds and great heat in summer. And, then, there are the eucalypts. This, to name but a few possibilities.

Trees like the poplar, the Monterey cypress, and the eucalyptus citridora, grow into tall, slender, dignified trees, bringing a picturesque beauty to any street. Such trees as the Chinese elm, a deciduous tree with graceful, slender branches of rather drooping habit, or the evergreen elm, slower in growth but of unusual charm, and the carobs, the ailanthus and some of the acacias, will develop into medium-sized trees of round, spreading form, giving pleasant shade and friendliness to the streets they adorn.

We can always depend upon the oriental plane for most urban places and our fine native sycamores for those situations where they can be given the generous space they require. The liquidambar, a large-growing tree with foliage that turns golden in the fall before the leaves are shed, and the gorgeous tulip tree are highly desirable. So is the native black walnut. And these are only some of the possibilities.

The reason it's suggested that we all should observe these plantings is that there are a great many instances of community planting where we can have something to say about it. If we know what is desirable, we may be able to prevent some of the mistakes that have been made in the past.—Los Angeles Times.

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## MODERN ROSES IN AUSTRALASIA

By B. V. ROSSI

(Mitchell &amp; Casey, Melbourne, 1930; \$3.00)

So many good books are extant on the Queen of Flowers it must be an original and interesting volume indeed which justifies the addition of another one. Nevertheless it is precisely such which has lately reached us from far-away Australia. Though it bears the date 1930 it should most certainly not fail of mention in our columns. In spite of the strange soil conditions described we are struck by the many apparent points of similarity between Australasia and California both in conditions to be met and attainable results. There is consequently rather an unusual amount of information in the book which, if not always directly applicable to our Californian practices, is at least of considerable comparative interest as well as beneficially stimulating to our ideas. The principal difference to be noted is the enormous trouble they appear to take down in that part of the world in the matter of soil preparation. Should we similarly go to all the fuss and labor described to remake our ground before planting the rose-bed, it would be very edifying to see what would happen. With so much presumed as established in the beginning, we can understand why the author thinks that many gardeners are prone subsequently to overfeed, and no doubt it is true that a good many do in our own region as well. His discussion of fertilizers and their management is throughout highly interesting. He goes into all phases of rose-growing at considerable length, including the production of new varieties (which the amateur is strongly advised to undertake for his own entertainment, whether or no he be so fortunate as to attain more lasting results). Flower shows, especially of roses and daffodils, are highly developed institutions in the Antipodes and in the care and space devoted to instructions for the production of exhibition roses out-of-doors, this book stands pretty much alone in the field. Competition brought to so meticulous a height would leave most of the other exhibitors at any of our own shows fairly gasping. Reversing the argument it seems strange to your interviewer to find one devoted to such painstaking detail in so many directions advising against the keeping of complete breeding records. How much of interest is lost where this is not done! Perhaps the strong influence of the show-table again explains the comparatively slight stress which the author lays on

the importance of fragrance. Disbudding is carefully elucidated and strongly recommended for most varieties. The chapter on pruning does not forget the subject of thorn-poisoning which is so real a tribulation to many of us. There is a very modern emphasis on the value of bud-selection in propagating stock for distribution, the same principle being as applicable to cuttings as to buds. Mr. Rossi agrees with many of our own growers in being a warm advocate of the old-fashioned virtues of early and abundant sulphuring as a remedy for mildew, but his advice for the control of aphids is very different from the common practice here. Standard roses are recommended for light soils in preference to the bushy types. You who love and grow roses should not fail to acquire this book or at the very latest have your public library acquire it, but when you are reading it you must not forget that spring and autumn run the other way around down in that far land and the discussion of the seasons must be interpreted accordingly.

S. S. B.

## TREES OF YOSEMITE

When you are packing up for your Yosemite trip this year, take along the new book, "Trees of Yosemite," by Mary Curry Tresidder (Stanford University Press, \$2.00). It will clarify those distinctions about which you are a little vague, or, if you are not already "tree-conscious" the lovely block prints by Della Taylor Hoss will probably inspire you to the point of active tree study. Notice the patriarchal Sierra Juniper of the frontispiece and the charming study of young Quaking Aspens on page 106. There are quantities of others, all of distinct decorative as well as botanical value.

The text gives the clue to the difference, for instance, between the red fir and the white fir, if you do not already know it, and does much to smooth the path for the beginner in tree study. I particularly like the clever charts which bring out the distinguishing characteristics of each species and make its identification a much easier matter for the novice.

The book is not only beautiful but botanically accurate. It covers in its scope not only the Valley proper but the whole of the Yosemite National Park and includes even such unexpected species as Knobcone and Digger pines.

It makes one impatient to be off to the Sierras—as it was probably meant to do.

LESTER ROUNTREE.

*The Magazine . . .*

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